

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

August

2

— 2017 —

GRIZZLIES ABROAD

Four Oakland journalism students travel to Greece and Israel and share their experiences.

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RINGING BELLS.

Oakland's own Dennis Curry to play the carillon tower in concert series

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BUSINESS ANALYTICS.

New graduate certificate draws students with computing and business skills

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KONYA STAYS.

OU Athletics director's contract is extended into 2022

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ontheweb

"Spider Man: Homecoming" welcomed the iconic boy superhero home with a film that finally did him justice. PHOTO / IMDb
www.oaklandpostonline.com

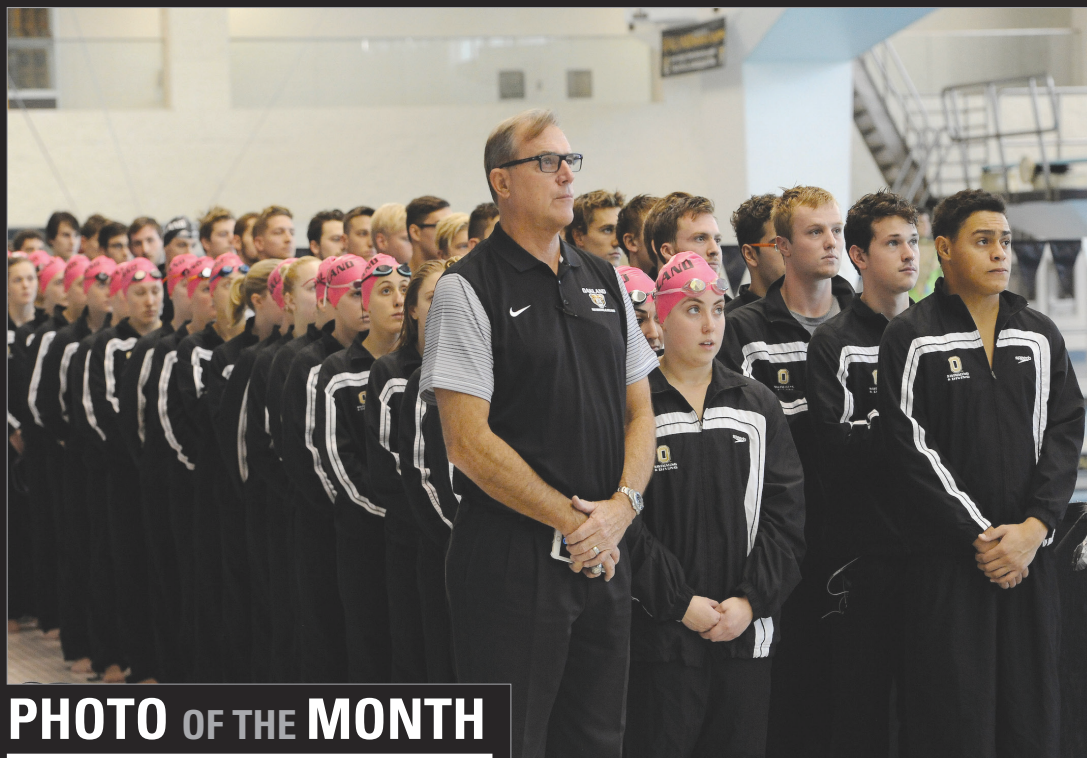


PHOTO OF THE MONTH

SWIM AND DIVE GETS RECOGNIZED // Oakland University Swim and Dive was recently awarded All-American Scholar recognition from the College Swim & Diving Coaches Association of America. Aside from the teams, Patricia Aschan, Rachel Waite, Takara Martin, Aleksander Danielewski, Paul Huch and Joe Smith all recieved honorable mentions. *PHOTO BY JOSE JAUREZ*

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE MONTH

How ready are you to go back to school?

- A** *goes into cardiac arrest*
- B** If it means my summer job is ending, yes
- C** I'M SO FREAKING READY
- D** Nah, I'm good

[Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

Check in: How's summer going?

A) I. Hate. My. Job.

10 votes | 30%

B) Sugar mama still not found

10 votes | 30%

C) So many summer classes

6 votes | 18%

D) Things look good from my boat

7 votes | 21%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

August 3, 1967

The Oakland Observer ran an editorial along with photos and descriptions of the recent riots in Detroit. The Observer went on scene to see the damage.

August 29, 2008

In it's local section, The Oakland Post covered former Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's trail against the state as he attempted to remain in office.

August 29, 2013

During the Detroit bankruptcy emergency, The Oakland Post wrote about how the city's beloved Detroit Insitute of Arts was facing liquidation.



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OAKLAND STAYS SAFE

The home of the Golden Grizzlies was recently named the third safest campus in the country.
PHOTO / Dongfu Han



10

SUMMER CONVENTION SCENE

Managing Editor Cheyanne Kramer gave her take on conventions to hit during the summer.
PHOTO / Cheyanne Kramer



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TIGERS AND BEARS... OH MY!

Comerica Park is inviting the Golden Grizzlies to watch the Tigers in action for the third year.
PHOTO / Oakland University

BY THE NUMBERS

STUDYING ABROAD

54.5%

Of students that go abroad choose a European country

1.55%

Of college students study abroad

10,760

Students from Michigan studied abroad in 2015

4

Countries in Europe: The United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and France host almost half of all study abroad students

Looking Back



The Oakland Post Archives

National Guardsmen flooded the streets of Detroit during the Race Riots to contain crowds, snipers and looting.

Looking back at the Detroit Race Riots

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

In the early morning hours of July 23, 1967, an after-hours club celebrating the return of two Vietnam war servicemen was shut down by a mostly white Detroit police force.

The 85 people inside the bar were taken away in police cars. By the time they were all escorted out, a crowd had formed and began throwing bottles at the police. One bottle even went through the window of a patrol car.

By 4 a.m., the disturbance had turned into a riot, and through the five days of violence and arson, 43 people were left dead.

In the 50th anniversary of this atrocity, many news organizations have been looking back at their coverage of the now infamous incident. Though it didn't at all relate to Oakland University, The Oakland Observer went on scene to see the aftermath of the riots and looting.

The riot happened on the corner of 12th Street and Clairmont, where many of the businesses were owned and operated by middle and upper-class white workers who commuted into the city from the suburbs, which are now flourishing in the metro Detroit area.

Tensions were high in the area, and not just because of the class and race imbalance, but the lack of liveable space for low-income people. Recent construction of highways had forced many residents out of their homes. 60,000 people lived in a 460 acre space at Virginia Park, mostly in sub-divided apartments.

The riot was considered as being one of the largest in U.S. history, and in the riot's five day lifespan, 43 people were killed, 342 were injured, and nearly 1,400 buildings had been burned and looted. National Guard troops had to come into the city to calm the rioters after Detroit police were unable to contain the crowds.

When the flames died down and it was all over, 5,000 people were left homeless.

Janice Means, a contributor to The Observer, wrote in the August 3 issue about her experience leaving a theatre during the riot.

"While in Detroit Sunday evening, I was ordered out of a theatre and upon leaving witnessed the turbulence along Woodward Avenue," she said. "We took that route only because it was impossible to get to the expressway due to the fires."

Lee Elbinger, another contributor for The Observer, wrote about Detroit in an article entitled "City is Dead." In it, he wrote about the ugliness of the scene in Detroit.

"It is a huge dirty machine that grinds out plastic products, plastic promises and plastic people," he said. "The recent riots express one shining affirmation among all the lost lives and destroyed property; it confirms the fact that the human spirit will not tolerate ugliness indefinitely."

He argued in his article that the concept of Detroit had fallen, and that the riot occurred in response to its collapsing landscape.

In an almost prophetic piece, he claimed the riots would be just the beginning of Detroit's downfall. Many historians agree that the '67 riots are what kicked off the season of poverty that the city is just recently recovering from.

"Sometime in the distant future Detroit will be turned into a huge museum and our descendants will walk down Woodward Avenue wondering how people in the 20th century could endure life in such a primitive, unhealthy environment," he wrote.

After the passing of the event's 50th anniversary this year, dialogue surrounding the event and race relations in Detroit has expanded. New films and documentaries have brought the discussion to a new audience.

Though many agree that racism still rears its head in the Motor City, residents and administration have proved that the city is still a force to be reckoned with in recent years.



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Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

The Summer Concert Series at Elliot Tower features an esteemed carillonneur every Friday evening from 6-8 p.m.

Summer Carillon Concert Series review: old meets new

Christian Miller
Staff Reporter

Originally designed over 500 years ago, carillon bell towers, speckled across the lower Europe, found their place as objects that marked times of great importance and entertained the populous.

Today, one of the greatest inherent challenges facing these behemoths lies on those who are responsible for operating them. With over 400 towers worldwide, 180 towers across the United States, and 14 located in Michigan, scarcity of proficient players is common.

However, despite the dwindling numbers, Dennis Curry carries on the tradition.

Curry was first introduced to the instrument while attending Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian church in Bloomfield Hills. After refining his skills on the world's largest carillon for over 28 years, Curry sought to expand his influence.

"I've played in every continent except Antarctica," he said. "My full-time job deals with a lot of global [travel]."

With the 49 fully chromatic

bells in Oakland's Elliott Tower poised for playing, Oakland University extended an invitation to Curry as the university's first carillon player in 2015.

"We're the same height as the Statue of Liberty," Curry said. "From the tip of her toes to the top of her torch it's 151 feet."

Old meets new in Elliott tower as it is equipped with modern technology to ease in its operation.

"This carillon itself has a computer so I'm not up here every 15 minutes ringing it," Curry said. "The computer activates air compressors to shoot air, decompressing a piston attached to a lever and releases a clapper onto the stationery hanging bells."

While the computer may be used to perform simple tasks such as routine time tracking and simple preprogrammed songs, it has some faults.

"It doesn't know how to play loud or soft like a person can," Curry said.

Along with performing, Curry hosts a weekly class every Friday in O'Dowd Hall to instruct eager newcomers.

"I've got four now, but in the

fall we're going to have an applied music course that you can take like piano or voice," he said.

Mary Roland is among the novice players currently enrolled in lessons.

"This is the largest percussion instrument and there is nothing else like this in the world," she said. "To be one of the few people, even as a beginner, is so amazing. It's sprinkles on a cupcake."

Individuals interested in hearing the bells can witness a live performance every Friday at noon. The 30-minute concert is put on by Curry and features themes from worldly events, or issues pertaining to campus.

As part of the Summer Carillon Concert Series, every Friday from 6-8 p.m. a themed concert will take place featuring an esteemed carillonneur.

Tracey Barilka, an Oakland alumna, has attended a handful of these concerts in the past.

"It's so relaxing to hear such a beautiful sound on campus," she said. "The tower and its bells really complete the atmosphere."

Oakland among the safest colleges in U.S.

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

After being recognized multiple times in recent months for its campus safety, Oakland University's trend is only growing.

On June 12, the National Council for Home Safety and Security released a list of the safest university campuses in the country based off of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting and the National Center for Education Statistics, and ranked OU as the third.

"Our partnerships with our community are what are key in keeping this community safe," said Oakland University Police Department's Chief Mark Gordon. "That coupled with a proactive law enforcement approach, our officers do a good job every day."

From the blue light emergency phones to night watch in the resident halls, the campus environment is continually adding to its precautions.

"I'm doing my Masters here [at OU] and I lived here during undergrad, [and] never had any problems," Erin Moore said. "I've dropped my phone on campus a few times and it [was] always given to security or some lost and found."

Gordon reported that while communication between the community and police is at a good place, it can always be better.

"As a police department we have very much publicized and pushed a public partnership police program basically saying that we try to partner with our community to encourage them to call us and say something," he said.

He urged the campus community to alert OUPD to anything suspicious even if one is not positive that something is actually going on, making the point that people can second guess themselves and worry about bothering the police.

"I think if there's anything that we could encourage more of, it's a more timely notification of suspicious activity on campus," Gordon said. "I always tell people when I give a presentation, you are never bothering the police. If you think it's concerning, it's concerning to us as well."

The OUPD will also be continuing the community liaison officer position in the resident halls, created last year, due to positive feedback and in order to build partnerships with resident students.

Furthermore, a new emergency manager position was just approved by OU and should be implemented by the fall semester.

"This person's position and their job is going to be the ability to create emergency operation plans and to further support large scale events on-campus and promote emergency preparedness for those types of situations," Gordon said.

Beyond these, the OUPD plans to adapt safety preparedness to the times.

"Long-term goals, a lot of them, are to remain vigilant with regards to changing trends," Gordon said. "What is occurring in the world when it comes to threatening the safety and security of us as a nation, and then to be prepared for that in our own local communities."



Courtesy of Oakland University Communications and Marketing

Oakland University's campus was found third safest in the country by the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Technology tips for incoming freshman

Laptops have become increasingly essential to college students, it is important to check for specific features upon purchase

Ariel Themm
Staff Intern

You have all your cool dorm gear, but do you have your most important tool?

Laptops have become essential to college students from taking notes to completing research. Some of us are Macs and others are PCs, and most of us have an opinion on which computer is better.

Lawson Robinson, a recent Oakland University graduate with an English degree, described how an internet search and a trip to the store lead to his final purchase of a MacBook.

"Being in the English department means there is a lot of writing to be done," he said. "I was looking for reliability and how long the lifespans were. This [absolutely] influenced what I was buying."

Robinson was happy to report that his laptop stuck with him all through the trials of university life.

"I bought my laptop at the beginning of college and it lasted all that time," he said. "The guy at the store also explained that this model had a lifespan up to five to seven years. Although I am a bit of a clean freak, I made sure I regularly updated the laptop and carried out the necessary actions to protect it from viruses."

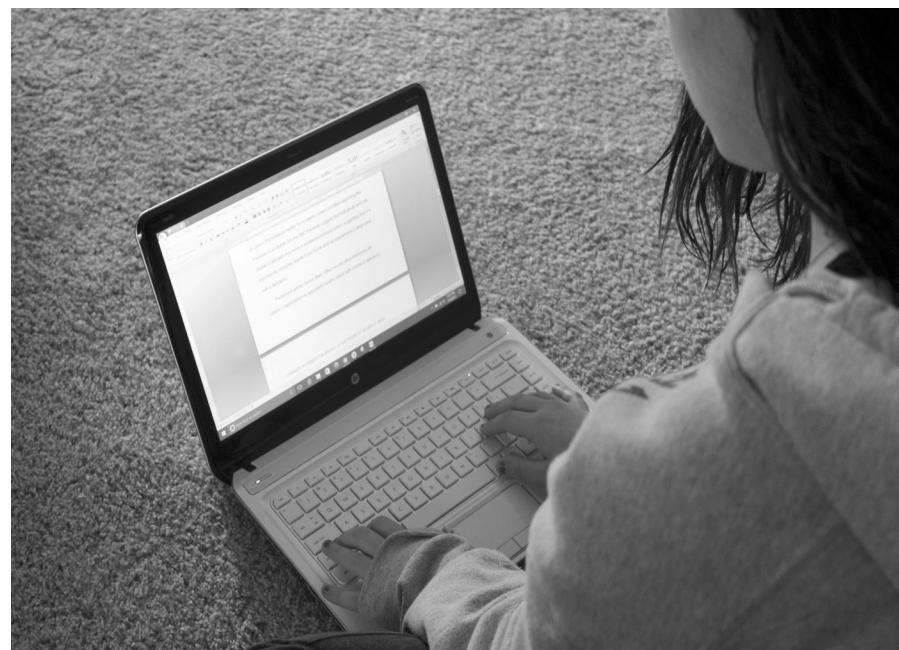
Two important features to look for in a laptop is a lifetime warranty and malware protection. According to Dan Ackerman's

CNET article, "How to buy a laptop in 2017," the three main rules are to know what valuable features to consider, the portability and the price. Most college students find they are tight on money from tuition fees, book prices and weekend leisure — but Ackerman insists that despite these financial concerns, some tools are worth the cost.

Apple tends to be on the pricier side, with new models ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, whereas Dell XPS 13 and HP Spectre are sold at lower prices. Students with certain majors might find themselves looking at higher prices if they need a platform that supports specific apps and features for graphic design or computer programming. The important thing to remember is that this tool should be a reasonable size and weight and also have the ability to support student consumer needs in order to accomplish projects and homework, which may come with prices ranging from \$200 to \$900.

Quality is a vital factor when purchasing a laptop. Rob Burns, manager of OU's Library Technology Services, offered further advice on the different types students may encounter when buying a laptop. He explained that tablets such as the iPad tend to be more limited in function but they have advantage of being lighter and less expensive than laptops.

The Library Technology Services can help with various problems when it



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Incoming Freshmen should take their major into account when looking for the best laptop.

comes to your device.

"We usually see problems with slowness, hard drive failure, flexibility difficulties, and battery failures," Burns said. "Dropping them can also be a huge problem. Especially ones that come with keyboards since those tend to be more fragile."

Burns added that preventative measures can make or break a laptop's lifespan.

"A recent trend in malware is a virus

called ransomware," he said. "People can encrypt your hard drive so you can't access your files and will therefore hold them for ransom until you wire them a sum that can't be easily traced by law enforcement."

The best way to maintain the safety and privacy of your device is to regularly create backups and keep them up to date. No matter what brand the computer is, taking care of whatever you buy is what helps them last.

New business analytics certificate broadens education programs

Falin Hakeem
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's School of Business Administration is now offering a graduate certificate program in business analytics. The program is available beginning fall 2017.

According to NG Data, business analytics is "the study of data through statistical and operations analysis, the formation of predictive models, application of optimization techniques, and the communication of these results to customers, business partners, and college executives."

Vijayan Sugumaran, professor of management information systems, said business analytics has been recognized by many organizations as a valuable activity.

"However, finding people that have the requisite blend of quantitative, computing and business domain knowledge and skills for business analytics work is

proving to be a challenge," he said.

Sugumaran added that graduate certificate programs can help address this challenge by providing a time and cost-effective way for people to fill in the gaps in their knowledge and skill base in preparation for business analytics work.

"Our business analytics minor at the undergraduate level and concentration at the graduate level have been very popular for several years now," said Mark Isken, associate professor in the department of decision and information sciences. "This certificate program provides a path for students who might not be interested in pursuing a master's degree right now but want to take courses in business analytics. Short, focused certificate programs have become increasingly popular in higher education."

The program includes five courses, three of which are required and two electives; Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics, MBA with a business analytics

concentration, Master of Science in IT management with a business analytics concentration, business analytics concentration and business analytics minor for Oakland undergraduate students in any major.

"The required courses focus on the fundamentals of business analytics, practical computing for data analytics and applications of novel analytics techniques in managerial decision making," Sugumaran said. "The elective courses cover a variety of topics such as advanced databases and big data management, web analytics, operations analytics, management science, econometrics and advanced statistical techniques."

Sugumaran said the graduate certificate program is intended for quantitatively and technically strong students in any major interested in developing business and data analytics skills.

"This program allows us to teach not only technical courses, but also apply the

analytics tools and technologies to solve problems in many different disciplines," he said. "The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows us to reach a broader audience, the potential to produce graduates with business analytics skills to meet the industry demand is an exciting aspect of the program."

Isken said his favorite part about teaching business analytics courses is that the field is still evolving, which keeps him constantly learning new things.

"My courses tend to draw talented and highly motivated students interested in learning how to apply quantitative and computational tools to challenging business problems," he said.

For more information about the program, visit the business analytics page on Oakland's website.

Information can be found at the following website link:

oakland.edu/business/undergraduate-majors-minors/business-analytics



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Children K-12 attend the Meadow Brook Writing Project's Youth Summer Writing Camp, which tries to foster imagination and creativity.

Youth summer camp at Meadow Brook Hall

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

Tucked away on the east end of campus is Meadow Brook Hall; a 110 roomed, universally themed recollection of early to mid-twentieth century life. Built and inhabited by lumber baron Alfred Wilson and his wife Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of Dodge Motor Company founder John Francis Dodge, the museum is now a national historic landmark.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the mansion gives daily historic tours. It also hosts weddings, private business events and community programs. Patrons experience privileged views of foreign antiques, luxurious architecture and artwork and secret doors and staircases hidden everywhere – a catalyst for creative imagination.

This summer, the Meadow Brook Writing Project (MBWP) Summer Institute is hosting its tenth-annual Youth Summer Writing Camp for children K-12.

"I just love the combining of writing and this house has so many possibilities for kids to have story ideas," said Mary Beth Revesz, camp facilitator. "They can write a circle fiction piece, they can write poetry inspired by nature walks, they can write

about their fantasy mansion, there's a lot of inspiration here for kids to do writing."

Revesz got involved with the summer camp program through MBWP Summer Institute, a four-week writing program for teachers. She teaches at Workman Elementary in Canton during the school year and says the excitement about writing and learning from children during the summer is an added bonus.

"They just have a lot of possibilities," she said. "They see ideas in everything. A kid just had an idea about a ghost story about the statues coming alive so there's inspiration from them everywhere. They just have a lot of energy."

It is mandatory for camp facilitators to first go through the MBWP Summer Institute. Terrea Hall was inspired by the several artistic locations the program exposed her writing to including the Detroit Institute of Arts and The Heidelberg Project.

"We met [in] different creative places," Hall said. "Then, I got the invitation from Mrs. Rivard about being here... so I did it. I've been teaching for almost 26 years and I've had kindergarten through 12 so for me, teaching them to write at an early age is crucial especially with a lot of the standardized tests, getting that foundation from letters to sounds to words to phrases to sentences to stories."

The Youth Summer Writing Camp program was co-founded by OU lecturer Rebecca Rivard and associate professor of writing and rhetoric Marshall Kitchens, who is also the director of the MBWP.

"It's genre based... We rotate different teachers in... and everyone has a different way of presenting. We work from a curriculum that we put together and we each kind of add our own flare to it," Rivard said.

During youth camps, Rivard makes sure that her teaching reflects an emphasis on imagination and creativity.

"During the school year it keeps their creative writing up," Rivard said. "A lot of kids get a distaste for writing because it's based on prompts, which is not the teacher's fault. If you have to write about the Statue of Liberty and you have to give three facts, you can't say it was stomping through New York City, where here, you can write about the Statue of Liberty, send me through whatever you want to do."

POLICE FILES

Breaking into an old trailer

A man called OUPD on July 12 to report a forced entry to the storage trailer that is parked on the southern end of campus where the Kettering Magnetic Lab used to be. The door to the trailer appeared to have been forced open with a crowbar. OUPD officers went to investigate the scene and saw that the trailer was indeed broken into. However, without an inventory list of the trailer, it was impossible for officers to tell if anything of value had been taken.

They did it for the "Insta"

On July 17, two OUPD officers were out on patrol when they spotted two subjects crawl under the fences that block the construction site of the new Southern Housing Complex. Officers entered the area and arrested both of the trespassers—who were identified as two male students. As the fences have "no trespassing" signs on them, both students had to be arrested and were given tickets for trespassing. Upon questioning, both men said they were just trying to get a good picture.

Parent wants an NBA star

OUPD was called to the O'rena on June 25 after a father was denied leaving a basketball camp because he had threatened to hurt his 15-year-old son for not playing well enough. The boy had reported the incident and told officers that his father regularly hurt him. Officers observed no bruising on the boy, but took the father in for questioning. The father openly admitted to punching his son out of "duty" as a father. After conversing with the officers, the father agreed to let his son leave with the boy's grandfather. The incident was reported to Child Protective Services.

Compiled by Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

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The importance of being obnoxious abroad: The Fourth of July

How to celebrate America's birthday in a foreign country before getting arrested

Stephen Armica
Satirist

When God created this great, green earth, he had two things on his mind: Don't f*** with the second amendment. Also, celebrate the Fourth of July. Since I'm a member of this beautiful country we call the United States of America, I intend to white-knuckle this tradition until it chokes on its own fireworks.

Unfortunately, I wasn't in the states to enjoy Christmas for patriots. I'm in Greece. Where Trump is a pudding-sack of demagoguery (whatever that means in the made-up Greek language) instead of the second-coming of Jesus J. Christ.

So how does a blue, white and red blooded American celebrate F.O.J. so far from his American roaming-grounds? Well, for one thing, finding fireworks in an eastern European country is pretty damn easy.

For another, they're jealous of the pride we hold for ourselves. Our country has so much national pride, we fly the flag of the Civil War losers. Because we're just so friggen' American.

But if you can sneak a bottle of Jack Daniel's into Disney World, which I did, then you can celebrate the birth of our nation in another country.

The first thing you have to remember is to wear your pride. Don't settle for a small pin, hoping that no one will notice it under your euro-cut suit lapel. Wear your daisy dukes, Mullet and Budweiser hat loud, proud and in an anti-capitalism protesting crowd.

Next, think of how you're representing

America. If you go into the nearest Greek bistro, order seafood moussaka, put a cloth napkin on your lap and say please and thank you, are you really being honest?

America was created by pushy people. From the bank CEOs to your very own racist uncle, there isn't anything in this country that was planned delicately. Especially when your uncle tries to reasonably explain why he thinks Obama was a bad president without sounding like Clayton Bigsby.

So represent this country how it oughts to be done, and bring yourself to beer-induced southern drawl and start telling people you're American, and therefore deserve special treatment. All while suddenly remembering that people don't tip in Europe.

Lastly, talk to your family. They miss you from 5,000 miles away and they deserve a quick hello. It's the least you could do before being put in a Greek prison.

This is, without a doubt, the only way to celebrate F.O.J. But despite that, a lot of people think you could spend a day representing your country through volunteer work in a refugee camp, legal aid office or soup kitchen. Lame.

These same people say that the spirit of one of the most powerful nations in the world is to offer aid to whoever needs it. These people, in their bottomless capacity to offer everything they have to benefit others, are stupid and ugly and probably don't even celebrate the Fourth of July.

But to all my fellow patriots, enjoy being in The Land of The (white, protestant, heterosexual and politically conservative) Free.



Marcella Banner / The Oakland Post

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Building bridges with the refugees

Mary Siring
Staff Reporter

Individuals from all parts of the world are building bridges and creating avenues of expression within Greek refugee camps. Refugees waiting in the camps are given food, shelter and toiletries- the necessities. The next step is creating avenues for expression and ways to pass the time for the residents.

Volunteers are traveling from all parts of the world to offer their knowledge and time to do just that.

Refugees in camps are left in limbo awaiting their verdict. The process to receive asylum is long and sometimes fruitless, resulting in rejection and ending in deportation. Even if deemed an appropriate candidate for asylum, refugees can wait months, even years, for relocation to another country.

Until then, residents are simply left to wait for an answer within the camps.

“The process is too slow,” said Stathis Boularakis, a legal advisor for Doctors of the World Greece. “People can be waiting over a year.”

While providing the necessities for the refugees are of utmost importance during their stay, providing activities and creative outlets are growing more important as the

waiting period extends.

Besides a slow-paced process and temporary placement within the camps, refugees have experienced and survived traumatic experiences- bombings, shootings, sexual crime and other atrocities.

“We have seen rising mental health issues,” Boularakis said. “Self-inflicted wounds, suicide attempts and panic attacks.”

As these issues become more prominent, it has become increasingly important to provide activities for residents. Music and sports are becoming the forefront of this movement.

“For some people that really like to play football or really like to play music, we’re giving them something to do during the day that they enjoy,” said Jason Steinberg, the director of The International Sports and Music Project and guitar teacher at Ritsona refugee camp. “It’s an expressive outlet for people.”

These activities are providing emotional support and an avenue for expression, as well as helping on the mental health front.

“There are too many people with psychological problems and they pick learning music because it fills the time and they start making new communities with guitars,” said Annita Matzourani, a local representa-

tive of Connect by Music and guitar teacher at Kara Tepe refugee camp. “They learn with each other, smile with each other and they get friendly with each other which is very important.”

These programs and classes are not just bringing activities to a once stagnant environment, but they are building communities within the camps.

“It’s like a big family here,” Matzourani said. “All of us, we are a big family.”

This connection is not exclusive to residents within the camps. Universal activities like sports and music are bridging the gap between citizens and refugees as well.

“I think sometimes, especially with media and people coming in, sometimes the boundaries between people get propped up,” Steinberg said. “That’s not at all what sports and music are. We’re trying to be in the business of breaking down boundaries.”

While their work is far from over, these teachers and volunteers are continuing their work to create a more creative and pleasant experience for individuals that have already lost so much.

“This is the most beautiful part of my life that I am living and I am very blessed,” Matzourani said. “If you give them love and you transfer love, you can take back what you transfer.”



“For some people that really like to play football or really like to play music, we’re giving them something to do during the day that they enjoy. It’s an expressive outlet for the people.”

Jason Steinberg
Director of the Interanational Sports and Music Project

LEFT One of the refugee camps in Greece. There are 7000,000 refugees in Greece. **BELOW** A mural of different animals drawn by the children living in the refugee camps.



The Yazidi of the Greek refugee crisis

Simon Albaugh
Social Media Editor

Mahamud Murad and his family live in a small caravan under the shadows of shipping containers and barbed wire fences. His family and many others were placed at the far end of the Scaramagas refugee camp for the group’s safety. But this has not prevented numerous knife attacks.

Now, in this humble home, they wait until they can finally relocate to the prize of every refugee in Greece: Germany. But even though this would be a cause for celebration, it is not what they want.

For one thing, Mahamud’s daughter is still missing. And for another, their culture that is thousands of years in the making – supposedly older than Judaism and Zoroastrianism – is in peril.

Mahamud said there are around 400 Yazidi in the Scaramagas refugee camp. Some are going to Germany, but many are going elsewhere or have not yet been promised to even leave the camp. When one accounts for the fact that there are more than 4,000 Yazidi refugees in Greece and 700,000 in total, there is no promise

that this intensely unique culture will ever be the same.

Yazidi are a Kurdish-speaking religious group from Northern Iraq. Instead of the Judeochristian God, they worship a forgiven dissenter as a symbol of God’s benevolence. This fallen angel, named Melek Taus, or the Peacock angel, follows a similar mythological story to the Christian Satan and Muslim Shayton.

When this is paired with the relatively peaceful nature of their religion, they became an easy target for ISIS, known in Iraq under its Arabic acronym, Daesh.

Many have compared what is happening to them to the WWII Holocaust. It was a result of ISIS’ spiritual leader Turki al-Binali’s Fatwa, or religious commandment, that the ninevah province of Northern Iraq where the Yazidi primarily live has been the target of systematic killings of men and children.

While the women, some as young as 9 years old, are being sold in ISIS sex slave markets.

There are only a few individuals speaking out against these atrocities. One such voice, Nadia Murad, who was held captive and regularly raped until she became uncon-

scious, is the leading witness, telling the story of what happened to her and what is currently happening to more than 3,000 other women and girls.

In Mahamud’s home of Shengal, or in English Sinjar, few have returned. Most believe the former home of the Yazidi will never be populated again.

When an entire religion is forced to scatter across the world, it may not survive. Especially when the Yazidi religion is endogamous, meaning that if one marries outside the Yazidi religion, they are forced to convert to the religion of their spouse. Yazidi do not accept outside converts either.

“We don’t want the money or anything,” Mahamud said, with his nephew translating. “Just to save. To save the Yazidi people. We want to live like any people. Save anyone.”

In that small caravan next to barbed-wire fences and precariously stacked shipping containers, there is a small group that is not only scared or traumatized, but desperate. They are clinging to their way of life, their beliefs and their culture in a world that will never be the same for them.

A day at the dig in Israel

Darcy Dulapa
Staff Intern

Ten Oakland University students ventured nearly 6,000 miles overseas just to get their hands a little dirty... Literally.

For the past three weeks, ten OU anthropology majors called Israel their home and got a taste of what archaeology outside of the classroom is all about.

Here’s what a day in the shoes of these adventurous anthropology students consisted of:

- 4:00 a.m.: wake-up call
- 4:40 a.m.: catch the bus to Lachish
- 5:05 a.m.: arrive at destination
- 5:15 a.m.: arrive to the top of the tel (by foot)
- 5:20 a.m.: gather supplies for the square you are digging in
- 5:30 a.m.: begin digging
- 12:55 p.m.: begin walking down the tel to catch the bus home
- 1:00 p.m.: board bus back to hostel
- 4:30 p.m.: pottery wash
- 6:30 p.m.: lecture
- 7:30 p.m.: community dinner
- 9:00 p.m.: bedtime

Repeat Sunday through Thursday.

The 2017 excavation is at Tel Lachish, which is an ancient tel (mound) located in the Shephelah region of Israel. OU students went for three out of the six week excavation.

Each student was assigned a different section of the square to work on. The square was split in half and each side was controlled by a different leader. The square leader was in charge of making sure the students dug in the correct spaces, followed the excavation safety rules and used the right tools for the job.

Students were taught to dig horizontally, across the dirt, rather than chopping down into the dirt vertically. This way, everything being dug up is all from the same time period.

Each layer is defined by a level. Each level represents a different time period. The further down you dig, the further you travel in time.

The different time periods include: Early Bronze Age (3300-3000 BC), Middle Bronze Age II (2000-1650 BC), Late Bronze Age (1650-1200 BC) and Early Iron Age (10th/9th century BC).

The leaders are able to determine what level they are digging in by the artifacts found; pottery, gold, olive pits, jewelry, flint blades, grinding stones, bones, walls, floors, destruction (burn), etc. Each ancient artifact directly relates back to a certain time period, which hints to the leaders what level they are currently in.

After an ancient artifact is found, the square leader studies it, labels it and

places it in a “find bucket” where they will further examine the piece at the end of the day.

Pottery wash takes place Monday through Thursday. At the end of each dig day, everyone excavating at Lachish comes together to wash the pottery found earlier that day. Each person picks a bucket filled with water and pieces of pottery ranging anywhere from one piece to 400 plus pieces.

After scrubbing each piece to get the excess mud off, the pottery is then placed into a cardboard box and taken to the pottery room for further examination. Each piece is studied and documented to determine what time period the pottery is from.

Once pottery wash comes to an end, everyone gathers in the common area for an hour long lecture about the excavation. Once the lecture is finished and their minds are full, it is time to fill-up their stomachs. Dinner is served around 7:30 p.m. and bedtime is shortly after. 4:00 a.m. comes early and the archaeologists need their rest so they can function properly at the dig site the next day.

This routine is repeated Sunday-Thursday. Once the excavation is through on Thursday’s, the weekend begins for all. But once Saturday ends, it’s time to get back to work.

GO ABOARD!



Oakland anthropology students spent three weeks in Israel digging for various artifacts. The excavation site was located at Tel Lachish in the Shephelah region of Israel. Students spent 12 hours a day digging, washing and preparing the artifacts for display.

Photos by John Bozick, Darcy Dulapa and Mary Siring /The Oakland Post

“The main aim of the project is to help refugees gain access to new skills and education that will help to better integrate them in society.”

Lucy Kanatsoulis
Dean of Enrollment and International Studies at The American College of Greece

American College of Greece in Athens welcomes displaced students to higher education

John Bozick
Web Editor

During his last official state visit, former-President Barack Obama spoke at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens, Greece. It was here that he announced a program in which the U.S. embassy would partner with the three American-Greek universities in providing education for 100 displaced students.

The program, deemed “Education Unites,” was made capable thanks to a \$340,000 donation to the American College of Greece in Athens.

They will also work with the student affairs office in order learn the basics of the professional world such as making a LinkedIn account, developing a professional portfolio and thinking about the steps needed to further their education.

“Education is seen as a critical piece of integration and whether that integration is here in Greece or elsewhere in Europe, education for kids this age is very critical and that’s part of the vision for this program,” said Education Unites admissions consultant, Kathleen MacDonald.

MacDonald described the Education Unites program as the first of its kind.

“We’re looking at this as sort of a pi-

tegrate them in society.”

Students will participate in workshops provided by the Student Services Office where they will learn the basics of going to an American or European university. The goal is to help better integrate them into college life.

The students will be taught English and will be eligible to take up to two college level courses at any of the three universities. The program will be co-funded using money from both the university’s financial aid and the U.S. embassy to provide everything from books, on campus living and meals for the students in the program.

They will also work with the student affairs office in order learn the basics of the professional world such as making a LinkedIn account, developing a professional portfolio and thinking about the steps needed to further their education.

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“We’re looking at this as sort of a pi-

lot program, we don’t know of any other universities that offer programs quite like this,” she said.

The overall goal of this program is to educate refugees through the program so that they are more capable of securing a job. According to Kathleen, this is the biggest factor in integrating these students into society.

Even if funding for the program does not continue with President Donald Trump’s administration, the university along with non-profits, and even help from the EU, would be capable of running a similar program.

Students enrolled at the American College of Greece will be eligible to choose from a wide array of courses, such as fundamentals of academic English, survey of western civilization, mathematics for liberal arts and many others.

The American College of Thessaloniki will only offer two classes that students will be able to take: the “information literacy class” and an English lab. However, the American Farm College offers a much broader variety with classes such as agricultural economics, information technology and chemistry among others.

The deadline for displaced students to apply is August 30, 2017.

Busting food myths with OU's Nutrition Society

Nutrition Society Vice President Rachel Golaszewski helps tell fact from fiction about food and health

Falin Hakeem
Staff Reporter

Ever wondered if diet soda is better than regular in terms of health? What about dark chocolate? Oakland University's Nutrition Society is here to bust some of these infamous myths and provide tips on how to stay healthy for students.

According to Rachel Golaszewski, vice president of OU's Nutrition Society, a common myth she typically hears is that carbohydrates are bad.

"Carbs are the brain's main food source," she said. "Getting in your healthy carbs such as whole grains, vegetables and fruits are very important for health."

Another myth she tends to hear pertains to gluten-free foods.

"There are actual people with actual gluten intolerances," Golaszewski said. "However, not as many people are intolerant to gluten as they think they are."

Kyle McIntosh, president of OU's Nutrition Society said people tend to overestimate their meal portions,

which leads to overeating. Snacking and studying pretty much go hand in hand or students on campus who are always on the go, so McIntosh suggests meal prepping because it allows for portion control and always having food on hand.

"This will reduce the probability you will eat something that has low nutritional value," he said. "Meal prepping does take time, but it helps people stick to what they want to eat."

As for healthier food items being more expensive, both Golaszewski and McIntosh agreed that it all comes down to knowing where to shop and how to do it smartly.

"Vegetables and fruit are the cheapest food on my shopping list," Golaszewski said. "I like to think of it in these terms; a family size bag of chips is about \$3. About how long does a bag of chips last? They say there are about 11 servings in that bag but I cannot remember one time that a bag of chips lasted more than five servings in my household."

Golaszewski added that \$3 worth of broccoli, which amounts to three

stalks, usually lasts her about seven or eight snack or meal add-ons.

"You could spend \$20 a day on fast food for \$140 a week, or \$70 on groceries once a week," McIntosh said. "Cucumbers are as low as 69 cents each."

"Carbs are the brain's main food source. Getting in your healthy carbs such as whole grains, vegetables and fruits are very important for health."

Rachel Golaszewski
Vice President
OU's Nutrition Society

Now for the age-old question—Is diet soda really better than regular? Golaszewski said the difference between regular soda and diet soda comes down to artificial sweeteners

versus sugar. Regular soda contains sugar while diet has artificial sweeteners instead.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the public can consume a wide range of artificial foods safely.

"If you are specifically looking to lower the amount of sugar in your diet and you absolutely need some soda in your life, maybe try diet soda," Golaszewski said.

As for dark chocolate, she said to find the healthiest forms of dark chocolate, such as the bars of chocolate that have a percentage of cocoa on the front.

"The higher the percentage, the closer you are to eating the actual cocoa bean," she said. "Some words of wisdom, if you are not used to the taste of rich dark chocolate, be ambitious at your own risk. Richer chocolate tends to be on the chalkier side. I've made that mistake before."

For more health tips like this, Golaszewski said the Health and Wellness Center in the Rec Center is a free source of knowledge and help while on campus.

NEW PAYMENT DUE DATES

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY

Beginning with fall 2017, Oakland University is implementing new payment and cancellation dates. The due dates have been changed to help reduce outstanding debt, limit late payment penalties, and free up available housing and classroom space.

Please enroll in a payment plan and pay your installments by their due dates, or pay your account balance in full using financial aid and/or external sources or your own funds by the due date. If you do not pay in full by August 15, 2017 or enroll in a payment plan and make the scheduled installments, you will be canceled from all classes and housing (if applicable).

IMPORTANT FALL SEMESTER DATES

- **July 16, 2017** — fall tuition and housing charges posted
- **July 16, 2017** — fall payment plan opens
- **August 15, 2017** — fall payment due date

If you register for classes after August 15, your charges are due immediately.

Payment
Due

VIEW all payment and cancellation dates and **LEARN** how to avoid cancellation at oakland.edu/financialservices, then Payments & Refunds, then Payments & Cancellation.

Changing stories one mentor at a time

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

Freshman move in day is, for many, what starts an 18-year-old's time as an adult. Mom and Dad are there to help unpack the boxes, and then you are on your own.

Brie Shines remembers this feeling all too well. By the end of the day, she was scared instead of excited. With an overwhelming feeling of being on her own with too much responsibility, she was happy to see a mentor step in.

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives has been giving its scholar students these mentors since it started 25 years ago. The center gives under-represented populations the mentors to help them stay on track and for the simple purpose of having at least one friend. During freshman year, the new students can plan on seeing

their mentor at least once a week. "I actually didn't even want to meet with my mentor, but we had to so I did," Shines said. "But my mentor was so encouraging. I grew so much as a person throughout freshman year."

These mentors are always students. Omar Brown-El, the director of the CMI, said it is important for "students to hear from other students." He said because of the closeness in age, the peer-mentor system provides a more effective outcome. Much like Shines, many students see their mentor as a friend.

Shines, now a senior, actually followed in the footsteps of her mentor and has become one herself. Through her leadership in CMI and an outfit on campus called Young Life, she now gets to do for others what her mentor did for her.

"As someone who can relate

to those under-represented students, it's inspiring and encouraging," she said. "I love its mission for diversity, because it's so much more than just race. I think it's very important, I love to be a part of it."

Obadah Asbahi, one of the CMI's peer mentors, also said that the opportunity to be there for students is what makes his job so enjoyable.

"It's about being that guy the freshman can come to for support," he said. "The CMI has always been like one big family, and the mentorship is just an extension of that."

Brown-El said the community of diversity is what fuels the office. Located in North Foundation Hall, it is meant to be somewhere everyone can go. Though the focus is to support and increase the graduation rate of under-represented students, Brown-El said they by



Photo courtesy of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives

Student mentors from the CMI are chosen specifically to help freshman.

no means isolate themselves.

One of the ways the center branches out is through its events. Asbahi said the events have always been his favorite part of the office. He remembers last year's "Taste of Africa" event as something he enjoyed and benefited from.

Aside from learning about Africa, he was excited to see a "mixed

bag" of people show up. The office that pushes for diversity is always happy to see different faces voluntarily help them achieve that goal. In its 25th year, the folks over at the CMI are ready to continue the work that has carved the paths of many Oakland University alums.

"I couldn't imagine campus without the CMI," Asbahi said.

Broadway producer sits in director's chair for new film

Trevor Tyle
Staff Reporter

When one has produced a Broadway musical by the age of 24, created a television series by 27, and received a Tony Award by 35, it does not seem like life can get much better. However, at 36, filmmaker Amanda Lipitz has accomplished all of this and more, and now, she is quite literally stepping into a whole new territory, proving that, for her, the only way is up.

Her latest film, "STEP," is a documentary that follows an all-girls' high school step team in Baltimore, chronicling their personal struggles as they strive for two major goals—a victory at the Bowie State University step competition and, more importantly, their acceptance into college. Step is a dance style that originated in Africa and combines foot-stomping, chanting and clapping.

The film has already won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Inspirational Film-making at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017, and now Lipitz has her eye set on breaking box office records with her first major directorial debut.

Of the film's success prior to its release, Lipitz says she and the film's stars—Blessin Giraldo, Cori Grainger and Tayla Solomon—are "really humbled and grateful [to be] inspiring young people and their families to keep going and not to be embarrassed by any circumstance that you may come from or that you may have encountered."

The success extends beyond critical acclaim. Speaking about audiences' positive reception to the film at recent pre-screenings, Lipitz admitted that, "It gives me a lot of hope and joy for our communities and our American cities [for] where we can go together as a country when we find common ground."

Despite the film's relatively short runtime, which falls just short of an hour-and-a-half, it tackles a variety of social issues that are expected to inspire viewers—namely black pride, female empowerment and the importance of education. Lipitz says that the support system provided by the team allowed the girls in the film to face these issues head-on, emphasizing themes of "teamwork, resilience, using your voice, speaking out, listening to those around you

and sticking together."

One of the events that directly influenced these themes was the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African-American man, while in police custody in Baltimore last year. As the film takes place in her hometown of Baltimore, Lipitz felt it was extremely important to shed light on Gray's death in order to "change the conversation about Baltimore."

"I think, the flame was getting turned up in Baltimore when we started [filming], and then it went all the way up when Freddie Gray was killed, and it was a horrible tragedy," she said. "I watched my hometown burn on national television, and it was [the girls'] junior year, and their senior year was looming, and we just knew we had to tell the story and tell it now."

The story Lipitz told extended even closer to home than Gray's death. Having met the Lethal Ladies of Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (BLSYW) Step Team when most of them were very young, she said that she had formed a bond with many of the girls. Lipitz argues that focusing on the film's three main stars was not a conscious decision, and that she

could have made an equally compelling film focusing on other members of the team; however, her connections with Giraldo, Solomon and Grainger ultimately made them the leads of the film.



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Amanda Lipitz has already produced a Broadway musical, created a television series and received a Tony award.

She said Giraldo, who founded the BLSYW Step Team, almost instantly connected with her after she confidently admitted to the Broadway producer that, "I'm gonna be on Broadway" at just eleven years old. Lipitz said she became a sort of mentor to the young girl, whose academic struggles are prominently fo-

cused on in the film. Grainger foiled Giraldo in a way, as Lipitz noted that she was at the top of her class, but remained "shy and mild-mannered" until she "came alive" when she started stepping. Likewise, Solomon, Lipitz said, "came out of nowhere to be one of the best steppers on the team" after joining in ninth grade, much later than the other girls.

The girls' stories allowed Lipitz to convey a message about education as well. Although the film's emphasis on the importance of college education is quite clear, Lipitz offered some advice of her own to college students struggling academically and financially, citing Martin Luther King Jr.'s "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?" speech as her own inspiration for pushing through academic hardships.

"No matter what goes on, no matter how many people tell you 'no,' no matter how many doors get slammed in your face or, you know, you are discouraged, don't be. Keep going, have a plan," she said. "Whatever that is, have a plan, work for it and don't let anything stop you."

"STEP" arrives in theaters August 4.

Your guide to summer cons

A seasoned convention veteran rates the best and worst places to get your cosplay on in a roundup of cons happening in the summer months

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

Conventions aren't cheap. But I scrounged up enough cash to attend a few this summer, namely NotCon, Anime Central, ColossalCon, Glass City Con and Fan World.

Let's go in order.

NotCon

I was looking forward to a weekend of fun with my friends at Midwest Media Expo. However, the hotel cancelled the convention two days beforehand. There were accusations that it was the convention's fault and that it was the hotel's fault, but no matter which party caused the cancellation, I was suddenly without plans.

However, convention guest John St. John decided to start his own convention with a two-day notice. It was fun, and free, but I have no idea if it'll happen again next year, or if Midwest Media Expo will return.

Anime Central

I was able to attend this with a friend of mine who works as a cosplay photographer, so I spent most of the weekend with them, exploring the convention and taking photos of some amazing cosplayers. The venue for ACEN

is breathtaking. It's in Rosemont IL.

We also ended up with a free hotel. Turns out they overbooked and instead of turning guests away, they put us in another hotel down the road for free. There was a wide array of programming and even a small costume contest held by one of the exhibitors, so even beginners could try their hand at a contest. The badge price was completely worth it.

ColossalCon

ColossalCon has always been one of my favorite conventions. This year, my team and I returned as panelists and it was a fantastic experience.

Colossal had affordable food, and nothing can beat a waterpark convention at the Kalahari in Sandusky, OH. The only downside: the price. Our hotel slept six comfortably, and our grand total was around \$1300 for the weekend. On top of that, badges were around \$65 at the door.

So if you're broke, Colossal might not be the convention for you. But if you can save up, it's worth the splurge. There are many panels and events throughout the weekend, including a formal ball and even a flea market on Sunday. Attendees

could even pay an extra \$15 to stay in the waterpark a few hours after closing.

Glass City Con

We also went to Glass City as panelists, and were invited to attend. Our hotel was very inexpensive and it was connected to the convention center, which was an added bonus.

The convention staff had set up small areas to take photos, which meant photoshoots turned out amazing. There was cheap food and the game room was huge, which was fantastic if you love obscure Japanese rhythm games.

Fan World

This hotel was shady. It was older than most members of my family, and the air conditioner made our room smell like curry. Also, the convention staff stayed in a different hotel, which made me a little uncomfortable.

The cat calling around the convention center was horrible too and ended with a friend of ours changing out of her cosplay early because of how bad it got. For me, the only thing that made it worth it was the people I met and the people I went with. So if anything, it would make a fun addition to an already-planned trip to Niagara Falls.

Trump, Travel and Terror in today's political climate

Isaac Martin
Political Contributor

At the end of June, as the high court prepared for its annual summer hiatus, it temporarily upheld President Trump's so-called "Muslim ban."



This issue began in January when Trump signed his first travel ban which affected seven nations. The order sought to create a 90-day pause on travel from those countries because they lacked proper vetting. Trump's executive order upset many on the left, who promptly labeled it a "Muslim ban."

The "ban" and its aftermath created worry among the American-Muslim community in general.

Soon after Trump signed the order, it was thrown out by an appellate court. Undeterred, Trump signed a second travel ban in March. The second ban was tangibly softer than the first, banning six nations instead of seven and removing Christian refugees from a favored status. However, the 9th circuit court of Richmond, VA stopped the ban on the grounds that Trump was attempting to ban Muslims even though the executive order didn't exactly do that.

This brings us to the Supreme Court's actions.

On June 29, because of the short window of time before their summer break, the Justices made a temporary decision. By a 7-2 margin, they agreed to allow the ban for now until oral arguments could be presented during the case in October. Though some may disagree, I believe the high court made the right deci-

sion.

Despite the fact that some have condemned the travel ban as a Muslim ban, that is an unfair portrayal. Forty-four of the world's 50 Muslim majority nations were not included in this ban. And for good reason, too. Many of these countries, like Turkey, have vetting measures in place for travelers and actively cooperate with the U.S. On the other hand, the six banned nations either don't have security measures (like Somalia) or don't cooperate with U.S. officials (like Iran). This is a security issue, not a discrimination issue.

Think about it like this. You live in a rougher neighborhood on the outskirts of Chicago. Every night you go to bed to the serenade of occasional gunfire. As you're going to bed one night, all of a sudden you hear a knock at the door and a stranger's voice saying something. You look at your phone - it's 1:00 am. How likely are you to open the door? Not very, right? That wouldn't be safe.

Let's change the scenario slightly. What if, instead of a random stranger, it was your best friend's voice calling out to you to let her in? Would you do it, especially if you got a text from her saying she was outside right after you hear her voice? You probably would. Why? Because you know the identity of the person trying to enter your home. When the rubber hits the road, that is all that the temporary travel ban is trying to do, let the right people into our country and keep us safe.

This policy doesn't seek to disenfranchise a certain group of people, it seeks to protect you and me from radical Jihadists.

The ban is only for 90 days on a handful of countries that don't cooperate with the U.S. or don't have good security measures. The U.S. is still allowing travelers from Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation. This ban also prevents middle-eastern Christians and others of different religions from traveling to the U.S. All these are reasons why we as a people ought to think of this ban as a door of protection rather than a wall of discrimination.

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Photo courtesy of Taylor Jones

Jones with her teammates as they celebrate winning the FIBA Women's Centrobasket.

From a Golden Grizzly to an international champion

Women's basketball guard, Taylor Jones, joins the U.S. Virgin Islands National team for the summer

AuJenee Hirsch
Chief Copy Editor

Supporting colors other than her usual black and gold, Oakland University women's basketball guard Taylor Jones became an international champion on July 16 playing for the U.S. Virgin Islands Women's National Team in the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Women's Centrobasket.

"I was the youngest one so I know for a fact that they treated me like I was the rookie," she said. "The speed of the game is a lot different and the physicality is very, very, very physical. The second day I was there I took an elbow to my tooth and it got knocked loose, and they're like suck it up."

Jones was contacted via Twitter by the assistant coach of the USVI team, Clint Williams. Jones rejected the offer to play for the team at first, but with some persuasion from her family and Oakland women's basketball head coach Jeff Tungate, she agreed to play for the national team.

"It shows that she's able to get rewarded for everything that she's done and that she's put into the game," Tungate said. "It's great for her to have an opportunity to play over there, but I think it's great for our university as well and our basketball program to know that we have players that are competing at an international level."

This season, Jones was named Horizon League Sixth Player of the Year coming off the bench and led the team in scoring

at 15.3 ppg which ranked seventh in the league. She scored more than 20 points 10 times and reached double figures 20 times which helped bring Oakland's offense average to 76.6 ppg and rank 19th nationally. She also helped the Golden Grizzlies to a 12-6 league record which marked the first time Oakland won 12 Horizon League games since joining the conference in the 2013-14 season.

"My expectations for Taylor on this team is to quite frankly be herself and play the game like she is very capable of doing," Williams said in a press release. "She will be one of the players who we will expect to score the ball and put pressure on defenses by drawing fouls, getting to the free throw line and being an overall playmaker. We're really excited to have her on the roster and help us reach our ultimate goal of winning this tournament and the gold medal."

Jones was able to help lead the team to a gold medal. On the first day of the tournament she scored 18 points, 14 of which were in the second half of the game. The USVI had an 82-58 victory over Guatemala which Jones said was a great way to celebrate her 20th birthday.

The U.S. Virgin Islands team went undefeated in the FIBA Centrobasket taking first place and earning a spot to play in the next tournament. Jones and the rest of the USVI team will be taking place in the FIBA Women's Americup on Aug. 6-12 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Meet the new softball coach

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

After a record-breaking college softball career as a pitcher for Saint Joseph's University followed by a record-breaking assistant coaching career at the University of Pittsburgh, Lauren Cognigni joins the Golden Grizzlies as the new head coach of softball. The Oakland Post sat down with Cognigni.

Was the choice to coach at Oakland a right place, right time situation or is there something about Oakland that you've always been attracted to?

I would say it was the right place, right time. I've been an assistant for nine years. I was really looking to become a head coach. That was my ultimate goal when I got into coaching. I had never been on Oakland's campus before my interview, but I ended up loving it and loving its surroundings and what they have to offer academically and athletically.

What are your thoughts on joining the Horizon League and its competition regarding softball?

I think the competition level in the Horizon League is pretty good. It's definitely a winnable conference and I think that as long as we have the right kids and the right mindset at Oakland we can win the conference for sure.

You've helped multiple schools set pitching related records during your time as a player and as a coach. How do you believe your pitching specialties will be an asset to Oakland?

I think I'm going to bring a lot of experience as far as pitching is concerned. I have a lot of knowledge about it... and to be completely honest if you have a good pitcher, you can get pretty far in your conference tournament and in post-season, and that's what we're looking to do.

Are there mostly returning players or are there new players coming in that you'll be working with?

There's a good mix. There are about ten new payers coming on and about ten returning. I think it's going to be good for our energy and our culture and what we're trying to build at Oakland.

Off the field, how do you plan on building a team morale and community within the team?

We're going to be doing a good amount of team building activities.

We all want each other to succeed. This isn't an every player for themselves kind of thing. I don't know how they've felt in the past but that's my philosophy on coaching a team, and bringing a team together is trusting and communicating with each other.

Dorsey-Walker goes pro

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

Former Oakland University men's basketball player Sherron Dorsey-Walker signed a pro contract on Thursday, July 20.

Dorsey-Walker will move to Holland at the end of August to join Zwolle in the Dutch Basketball League, where he will play as a guard.

"I am blessed to be in this position, playing professionally has always been one of my dreams and to finally sign with a team is great," Dorsey-Walker said in a press release. "I want to thank coach Kampe and the coaching staff that helped prepare me for the next level."

In his first season at Oakland, Dorsey-Walker played in all 35 games, starting in 29 of them. He was also third on the team when it came to rebounds and assists and ranked 16th in the Horizon

League in rebounds.

"I'm happy for him," said Oakland men's basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe. "His goal was to play professional basketball and I think his Oakland experience helped him achieve it."

The 2016-17 season was Dorsey-Walker's best season. He started in all 34 games, lead the Golden Grizzlies in assists with 129, averaged 13.4 points and 8.0 rebounds per game and was named a 2017 All-State Good Works Team nominee.

"It was numerous things that played an important part, whether it was extra film sessions, weight room, training room to help my body recover or shots in the gym," Dorsey-Walker said. "I had the resources to be the best player I could be. More importantly, I am a better person. I was educated on how to be a professional by the coaches and former players. I will forever be grateful to Oakland University."

OU Night at Comerica Park in Detroit

Event organized by Comerica staff: an evening of Tigers baseball, camaraderie and Golden Grizzly pride

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, Aug. 9, Oakland University students, alumni, faculty, and staff are heading downtown to fill up Detroit's beloved Comerica Park and see the Tigers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. This annual event is presented by the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) and the Detroit Tigers.

Since 2005, the OUAA has been holding its own OU Night at Comerica geared toward Oakland's alumni population. In 2015 the Detroit Tigers introduced the FOX Sports Detroit University Days to commemorate universities in the state of Michigan like Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Wayne State University and Oakland University. There have been two OU Nights at Tigers games sponsored by Comerica, so this year events were combined.

With this event being an alumni sponsored event, the OUAA's Director of Alumni Engagement, Erin Sudrovech, has been a part of the team in charge of getting the word out about the game and the details that will make it an unforgettable event.

"Now that the tickets are handled through Comerica Park, really our role is making sure that the fan experience is as OU saturated as possible," Sudrovech said. "This year we are working with the Barnes and Noble at OU Bookstore. They are providing t-shirts to the first 500 people who come to the game. We are working with Athletics. The new Grizzly Motion is going to be there to perform during the game, to greet people as they arrive and to do the 7th inning stretch. Grizz will be there of course, Dr. Pescovitz is going to throw out the first pitch and Gold Vibrations is singing the National Anthem."

For the first OU Night at Comerica,

around 250 fans showed up to celebrate their hometown baseball team and their school. After the Tigers went to the World Series in 2006, over 1,400 Oakland fans filled Comerica Park. In recent years, the average amount of attendees ranged from 400-500.

"Because we are combining [the two nights], our goal was 1,000," Sudrovech said. "We already sold 1,000 of the ticket packages, and then from there we are hoping we will get even more by game-day."

These packages include the ticket to the game and a voucher for a hat featuring the Detroit Tigers and Oakland University to be redeemed at the game. This event has even sparked interest in people that are not huge sports fans.

"I'm not a big sports person actually," Oakland student Asia Stewart said. "I figured it'd be a good evening with my parents, and I might see some fellow students. The school tries to work

with different types of events and make it affordable for us as students."

Everyone has their own reason to see a Tigers game, whether it be to see their Tiger in action or have a night out with friends or even the chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches as Sudrovech jokingly pointed out. However, this event is about a lot more. Past, present and future Golden Grizzlies come together to share their black and gold pride.

"Detroit is a great sports city, so everyone loves being able to go to our professional sports events, but being able to be with a bunch of Oakland University people is a great draw," Sudrovech said. "You get the real sense of pride for your institution, you get to be around people you went to school with, parents bring their children to expose them to OU. It's also great visibility for Oakland in Detroit. Honestly what I love is looking across all the seats and seeing the sea of OU people. Here we are taking over Comerica Park for the night."



Illustration by Marcella Banner / The Oakland Post

IUPUI joins the Horizon League

AuJenee Hirsch
Chief Copy Editor

This upcoming school year, the Golden Grizzlies can expect to welcome an old foe back to campus. The Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Jaguars are joining the Horizon League following Valparaiso's swift exit to join the Missouri Valley Conference. The Horizon League Board of Directors unanimously approved IUPUI's application back in June.

"It is clear that the vision, values and mission of IUPUI are clearly aligned with those that we champion in the Horizon League," said George W. Hynd,

former Oakland University president and chairman of the Horizon League Board of Directors in a press release. "The addition of IUPUI will affirm our commitment to excellence in promoting the student-athlete experience and impact at all of our Horizon League institutions. On behalf of the Board, I want to convey our enthusiasm and congratulations to the newest member of the Horizon League."

The remaining nine schools after Valpo's departure were told that there would only be nine schools competing this year, but the Jaguars were a last minute addition that none of the schools in the Horizon League knew

about until the official announcement had been made.

"We had scheduled it like Valpo wasn't going to be in the league," men's basketball head coach Greg Kampe said. "So we just had to drop a couple games to play IUPUI so that was a bit disconcerting that we had to go through that, but that's part of the growth of the league is you accept it and move on."

IUPUI previously faced off against Oakland in the Summit League before Oakland decided to leave the Summit League in 2013.

There has been long interest for the Jaguars to join the Horizon League given that the Horizon League's cor-

porate office is based in Indianapolis which will be a big media market for the league.

"[IUPUI] is definitely in our geographic footprint," said Oakland Athletics Director Jeff Konya. "They're in a city with population that has an interest in sports ... so it's valuable from a media perspective in terms of being in tune with the Horizon League and intercollegiate athletics, and understanding what our brand is, creating stories and writing about us."

The Jaguars will play in 18 out of 19 of the Horizon League sports — excluding baseball — starting this upcoming school year.

Konya signs new five-year contract

After three years, Oakland University's Director of Athletics is looking forward to advancing the Golden Grizzlies

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's Director of Athletics Jeff Konya signed a five-year contract as of June 27. Konya joined Oakland Athletics in 2014 after spending time with Northeastern State, Memphis and Bucknell.

"I have been talking with the leadership at Oakland for a while, and I am really thankful and appreciative for this," Konya said. "They like the direction we are going in, and I think we can continue to move forward as an organization."

The job of an athletic director does not just revolve around administrating different sports. They are also brand representatives for the university and in charge of making sure the institution has a tremendous student-athlete experience as well as a great fan atmosphere.

Over the past three years as athletic director, Konya has set several plans into motion, ranging from marketing and fundraising to community engagement. At the start of the 2014-15 school year, Konya and administration held a brainstorming session where they formed a strategic plan to build upon the foundation already established at Oakland Athletics.

One of the major strategies that came out of this meeting was the marketing campaign "See the Bear, Be the Bear, Wear the Bear," or as it is often referred to on social media, #WEARtheBEAR.

"I think our marketing and branding around the 'Wear the Bear' has yielded great results," Konya said. "Our social networking was last in the league, and now we are first in terms of our engagement opportunities. Fundraising is up, our game attendance is up, our collateral revenues are all up and we have been on national TV more times in the past three years than the previous decade. So, I think a lot of those touch points that came out in that session have been realized, but we still have a lot of work to do."

In his first year at Oakland, Konya established the annual Black and Gold Awards at the Fox Theatre. These awards celebrate the excellence of student-athletes in competition, the classroom and the community. This past year, the BGAs were televised for the first time and featured big names to present the awards such as Brad Galli, Justin Rose and Mickey Redmond.

"So far we have gotten a great response from the student-athletes, the coaches, the community fans and supporters that have attended" Konya said. "I think it's a difference maker for us in terms of bringing together all of the student-athletes' stories and their collective experiences to the forefront in a really formal and energetic way."

Another accomplishment Konya reached is three straight McCafferty Trophies. Every year, the Horizon League school that finishes with the most performance points based on how its teams finish in the 19 championship sports is awarded the McCafferty Trophy. The 2014 school year was the first time Oakland won a conference all-sports title. The three straight trophies make Golden Grizzlies the first school to do so in a decade.



The Oakland Post Archives

One of Konya's crowning achievements during his administration has been strategic financial and marketing plans.

“I’ve been talking with the leadership at Oakland for a while, and I am really thankful and appreciative for this,” Konya said. “They like the direction we’re going in, and I think we can continue to move forward as an organization.”

Jeff Konya
Director of Athletics

Aside from competition, student-athletes have been excelling with their grades. Oakland currently leads the Horizon League in All-Academic and Honor Roll selections. Concluding the winter 2017 semester, athletics earned an organization-best grade point average of 3.3. In order to manage this, a few different strategies were implemented, including creating a dialogue with faculty, being proactive with scheduling so there was minimal conflict and academic counseling.

"The credit really needs to be with the student-athletes and our academic team as well as the overall university," Konya said. "We have an extended athletic committee that is basically our compass for all academic issues that works with our department. They have had some great suggestions through the years. Our coaches are brought into how important the student part of the student-athlete equation is. This is

helping us in terms of future recruiting because parents and student prospects know that if they come to Oakland then they can be successful in the classroom and competition."

Due to the success Oakland has seen in recent years, Konya was recognized by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, an organization that acknowledges athletic directors for positive contributions and commitment to their work with the schools and communities. Konya was selected as one of Under Armour's Athletic Directors of the Year for 2016-17 this past March.

"[Being selected] was flattering, but I also think that it was a testament to the good work done by the entire organization," Konya said. "It's not ever the product of one individual, it's always the collective of the village. I am appreciative of everyone's hard work that led to that."

He explained that athletics at Oakland still has a long way to go, but the organization is still working with its proposed strategic plan. However, even with work still needed to be done, Konya says that the culture surrounding athletics sets them apart from any university.

"The best part of my job is just interacting with the people involved with Oakland Athletics on a day-to-day basis," he said. "I think we have some of the best student-athletes in the country. I think we have some of the best students as a university with our support. I love being in higher education because there is always topic of conversation, especially in and around athletics. That's something I look forward to each and every day."

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